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Events Move Too Fast To Project A Shadow

These are not only times that try men's souls—they give editorial writers a case of the screaming meemies. Conditions change too quickly.

We can write on Tuesday a piece on the beauty of the mountain dogwood (and it is, this year, tremendous—oversized petals shaped in wondrous conformity) and we can save the piece until Saturday, more or less confident the dogwood will still deserve acclaim.

But let us try it with Laos. Let us try it with Cuba or the Congo or even with the General Assembly. We either come up with a blank page or a deep sense of embarrassment.

The age we inhabit is an unpredictable age and future events cast few shadows. The established standards of judgment, the normal rules of evaluation, even the natural patterns of human behavior are no longer valid. The X-plus-Y we were taught to regard as fixed is deceptively flexible.

We would have gambled, for ex-

ample, on Kennedy's firing Allen Dulles as head of the Central Intelligence Agency after the Cuban invasion flopped.

~~The CIA guessed wrong. Everybody knows it. Dulles is head of the CIA, and some of us naive pundits expected heads to fall.~~

None, apparently, will topple. This is a new political time with strange philosophical values.

John F. Kennedy says the Cuban blunder was all his fault. That is, we'd reckon, a relative pose, but most Americans appear to swallow it graciously.

Not, in this case, us. We disgorge a little uncouthly, write this on Wednesday, mark it for weekend publication, and depart for Chapel Hill.

By the time it appears, with our recent luck, Fidel Castro will be head of the Central Intelligence Agency and Allen Dulles temporary czar of Cuba.

You can fuss with our foresight—for free.